

(d) Unless a separate fore and aft access is provided below the freeboard deck, a permanent fore and aft gangway must be fitted at the superstructure deck level between poop and all other deckhouses used in the essential operation of the vessel.

(e) Type “A” vessels must be fitted with open rails for at least half the length of the exposed parts of the weather deck. Where superstructures are connected by trunks, open rails must be fitted for the whole length of the exposed parts of the freeboard deck.

#### **Subpart E—Unmanned River Barges on Lake Michigan Routes**

SOURCE: USCG–1998–4623, 67 FR 19690, Apr. 23, 2002, unless otherwise noted.

#### **§ 45.171 Purpose.**

(a) This subpart establishes a special load line regime under which certain unmanned, river-service, dry-cargo barges may be exempted from the normal Great Lakes load line requirements while operating on certain Lake Michigan routes. Depending upon the route, the barge may only need a limited service domestic voyage load line, or may be conditionally exempted from load line assignment.

(b) Except as provided in this subpart, barges operating on Lake Michigan must have either an international load line assignment issued in accordance with the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended, or a Great Lakes load line assignment issued in accordance with the requirements of this part.

(c) The requirements of this subpart are summarized in table 45.171:

**Table 45.171:**  
**Load Line Requirements for Dry Cargo River Barges**  
**Operating on Lake Michigan**

	Voyages between Calumet Harbor, IL and:			
	Burns Harbor, IN	Milwaukee, WI	St. Joseph, MI	Muskegon, MI
1) Load line requirement	Conditionally exempted from load line assignment (must meet requirements below)		"Limited service domestic voyage" load line	
2) Where to register/apply	Exempted barges must be registered with the USCG Marine Safety Unit 555A Plainfield Road, Willowbrook, IL 60527 Fax: (630) 986-2120		Apply for load line to ABS Americas 16855 Northchase Dr. Houston, TX 77060	
3) Eligible barges	Dry cargo river barges Built and maintained in accordance with ABS River Rules Length-to-depth ratio less than 22 All weathertight and watertight closures are in proper working condition			
	No age limitation	Not more than 10 years old	No age limitation	
4) Freeboard requirement	All barges: freeboard must be at least 24 inches (610 mm) Open hopper barges: coaming height + freeboard must be at least 54 inches (1,372 mm)			
5) Tow limitations	Barges must be unmanned Not more than 5 nautical miles from shore			
	No limit on number of barges	Not more than 3 barges per tow		
6) Cargo limitations	Dry cargoes only. Liquid cargoes, even in drums or tank containers, are prohibited No hazardous materials. HazMats are defined in 46 CFR part 148 and 49 CFR chapter 1, subchapter C			
7) Weather limitations Voyage may not begin; or if these conditions arise during transit, voyage must be discontinued and tow must proceed to shelter.	"Fair weather" only	Ice conditions: adverse conditions that imperil tow or access to shelter Waves: 4 feet (1.2 m)		
		Sustained winds: 16 kts from NE, E, SE 21 kts from N, NW, W, SW, S	Sustained winds: 16 kts from N, NW, W, SW 21 kts from NE, E, SE, S	
8) Pre-departure preps:	Required -- as specified in § 45.191			
9) Towboat requirements	Sufficient to handle tow, but at least--			
	(a) Power:	Sufficient to handle tow	1,000 HP	1,500 HP
	(b) Communication system:	Recommended -- § 45.195(a)	Recommended -- § 45.195(a)	Required -- § 45.195(a)
	(c) Cutting gear:	Recommended -- § 45.195(b)	Recommended -- § 45.195(b)	Required -- § 45.195(b)
	(d) Operational plan:	Recommended -- § 45.197	Recommended -- § 45.197	Required -- § 45.197

[USCG–1998–4623, 67 FR 19690, Apr. 23, 2002, as amended at 75 FR 70601, Nov. 18, 2010; 75 FR 78928, Dec. 17, 2010; 76 FR 32326, June 6, 2011]

**§ 45.173 Eligible barges.**

Only barges meeting the following requirements are eligible for the special load line regime under this subpart:

- (a) Unmanned, river service, dry-cargo barges;
- (b) Barges that have been designed and built to at least the minimum scantlings of the American Bureau of Shipping River Rules which were in effect at the time of construction;
- (c) Barges with a length-to-depth ratio less than 22;
- (d) Barges on the Milwaukee route must not be more than 10 years old; and

(e) All weathertight and watertight closures (dogs, gaskets, covers, etc.) must be in proper working condition.

[USCG–1998–4623, 67 FR 19690, Apr. 23, 2002, as amended at 75 FR 70603, Nov. 18, 2010]

**§ 45.175 Applicable routes.**

This subpart applies to the following routes, including intermediate ports, on Lake Michigan, between Calumet Harbor, IL, and—

- (a) Milwaukee, WI (the "Milwaukee route");
- (b) Burns Harbor, IN (the "Burns Harbor route");
- (c) St. Joseph, MI (the "St. Joseph route"); and
- (d) Muskegon, MI (the "Muskegon route").

[USCG–1998–4623, 75 FR 70604, Nov. 18, 2010]